



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GHERARDI et al Atty. Ref.: 1090-26; Confirmation No. 6832

Appl. No. 09/423,516 TC/A.U. 1647

Filed: February 10, 2000 Examiner: Hayes

For: HGF POLYPEPTIDES AND THEIR USE IN THERAPY

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January 28, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 5, 2004, entry and consideration of the following remarks are requested.

Claims 64-79 are under active consideration. Claims 64-86 are pending.

Rejoinder and allowance of claims 80-86 are requested upon allowance of claims 64-79.

The applicants submit that as of the priority date of this application, May 1997, it was well known in the field of protein engineering that the majority of replacement mutations in a protein have little or no effect on protein folding, stability or activity, and that amino acid substitutions at selected sites are required in order to change protein activity. This conclusion has been derived from studies on a wide variety of proteins (see, for example, Gassner et al (1996); Huang et al (1996); Rennell et al (1991); Bowie et al (1990); and Axe et al (1996), copies attached and listed on the attached PTO-1449